

## COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

P.O.Box 4411

Huntsville, Alabama 35802

J. C. Spilman, Editor

Volume 16, No. 3

November, 1977

Serial No. 50

# MISCELLANEOUS RUMBLINGS, RAMBLINGS AND REPORTS FROM THE EDITOR.

This is the final issue for 1977. It has been our objective in the past to produce a minimum of four issues per year, but during both 1977 and 1976 we mailed out only three issues each year. One factor was cost -- it was considerably less expensive to make up and mail three larger issues than four smaller ones. More important, however, is the continuing shortage of material for publication, especially the shorter letters and articles. It has been a very difficult task to accumulate substantive material for each issue.

It is important that each of our Patrons recognize the fundamental purpose of CNL -- and it will help, perhaps, if it is restated from time to time. CNL is designed as a means for communication between those of us interested in early American numismatics. It serves as a sounding board for questions, theories and opinions on the technical and humanistic aspects of early American coins and paper money.

All of the material published in CNL is submitted by our Patrons and must be in more or less complete form ready for final typing, including necessary photographs, charts, and whatever else is required. As most of our Patrons realize, CNL is a part-time endeavor of ye Editor and the mundane necessity to earn a living takes precedence over lower priority items. So -- when we receive material intended for publication that requires extensive organization, editing and a search for photographs, it stands a very good chance for extensive delay in publication. One such article has been in-work for almost three years. In other cases Patrons have decided -- for various reasons -- to pull back their material and to publish it elsewhere. So be it.

Another problem is correspondence. Time is often not available for extensive replies to personal questions and comment, but even so ye Editor attempts to make a personal reply to every letter. Sometimes delays are necessary because correspondence must be set aside until time is available for reply.

The point of this message is to remind our Patrons that CNL is your opportunity to contribute and to receive knowledge on early American numismatics, and it requires your participation and assistance to be successful. You cannot leave everything to ye Editor. At the completion of each year ye Editor asks himself -- is it worth the effort? From time to time your letters indicate an unseen harvest that makes it all worthwhile.

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JCS

# • LETTERS • *LETTERS* • Letters • Letters •

## • Technical Notes •

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WHO ARE PORTRAYED on the 1760 VOCE POPULI COPPERS?

(TN-71)

• • from Walter Breen; Berkeley, California

We can at once rule out the old claim (by Nelson and others) that the P found on some of these means "Provost." Though it is possible that one of the three (or possibly five) individuals pictured on these tokens was John Hely-Hutchinson, this eminent statesman (1724-1794) was then a leading member of Irish Parliament, not to become Irish Secretary of State nor yet Provost of Dublin College for over a dozen years after the tokens were made. I have checked available reproductions of extant portraits of notables of the period (alas, none yet is available of Hely-Hutchinson), and have come to the conclusion that the individual portrayed on the coins with the P is almost certainly the Old Pretender, James Francis Edward Stuart (1688-1766), called "James III" by his partisans. In which case the P would have to mean either Prince or, considering the Latin legends, PRINCIPS, the very title used by Octavius before he took the crown as Emperor Augustus. The younger portraits, found in finest style on Vlack 4 ("Imperial" head), are somewhat nearer to those of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788), commonly known as Bonnie Prince Charlie. Irish of 1760 were mostly partisans of the Stuarts as alternatives to the Hanoverians. They would of course NOT have referred to either "James III" or Bonnie Prince Charlie as "Pretender"; this term was mostly used by loyalists of Hanoverian persuasion. In which case the VOCE POPULI "By the voice of the people" legend would have alluded, in Ireland, either to Stuart partisanship or ambiguously also to the perpetual Irish quest for home rule. We may assume that whichever American merchants imported these things from Ireland interpreted the inscription to allude to anti-royalist sentiment, equally appropriate to the Sons of Liberty over here.



Do Nelson 6 & 7 VOCE POPULI Actually Have Different Obverse Dies? (RF-60)

On Jerry Zelinka's VOCE POPULI Halfpence plate (CNL #47, p.563) he asserts that Nelson 6 and Nelson 7 varieties have different obverse dies which he designates as obverses 5 and 8 respectively. These two obverses are very similar, note for example the recut "V" on both, and the almost identical relative positions of the legend letters.

Every Nelson 6 that I have seen has been on a cast planchet, but the Nelson 7 is usually found on rolled planchets. Could these different minting techniques have produced the minor differences. Or could one represent a much later die state? Do CNL Patrons have any opinions on this point?

More THOUGHTS on the "1700" VOCE POPULI.

(TN-66A)

● ● from Jerry Zelinka; Tulsa, Oklahoma

I want to comment on John Horan's article on the 1700 VOCE POPULI halfpence. (CNL #48, p.587). This theory is an original and fresh approach to the 1700 VOCE POPULI origin. It is logical that the existing 1700 examples may well be post-striking alterations. I suppose that good magnification photographs of "clean" examples for publication in CNL would be difficult to come by.

Editor's Note: Illustrated below are the two best specimens of the "1700" --



" 1700 " Reverse of Nelson 6  
Zelinka D(a)

Photo courtesy of Robert A. Vlack



" 1700 " Reverse of Nelson 7  
Zelinka F(a)

Photo courtesy of William T. Anton, Jr.



Some SPECULATIONS on the "1700" VOCE POPULI.

(TN-66B)

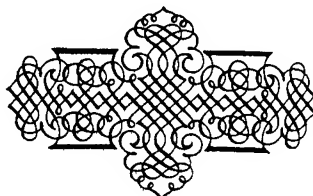
● ● from ye Editor

A cursory examination of the VOCE POPULI illustrations on the Zelinka plate, (CNL #47, p.563), reveals four reverses on which the date element 1760 appears to have been sunk into the dies from identical numeral punches. These are Zelinka B, C, D and F. Note the similarity of size and shape of the "0" and the closed loop portion of the "6" on these four specimens. Note also the dissimilarity of these features on all other specimens.

These naked-eye observations can lead to a number of speculative theories:

- Theory 1 -- The miscut die. The die sinker mistakenly punched 1700 into the die and, after striking a few specimens, realized his mistake and hand corrected the die by recutting the first "0" into a "6". This is the presently accepted theory.
- Theory 2 -- The altered coin. All "1700" are mechanically altered from 1760 after minting. (As suggested by John Horan, CNL #48, p.587).
- Theory 3 -- The missing "6" punch. This theory would hold that the die sinker had no "6" punch and so intentionally cut "1700" into each of the dies, later converting them by hand to "1760".
- Theory 4 -- The broken "6" punch. In this case one might suppose that the tail of the "6" had broken off during usage resulting in "1700" rather than "1760", and this error was later corrected by hand.
- Theory 5 -- The lapped die. A previously perfect die having the tail of the "6" only lightly cut into the die could, as a result of lapping, lose the tail from the "6" and be converted into a "0".

Until in-depth studies are conducted to evaluate all such theories and to positively prove or disprove such possibilities, there is little to be accomplished by such speculation other than the recognition of the need to conduct a detailed study of the problem.



## IMPORTATION of HALFPENCE &amp; FARTHINGS on the UNICORN

(G-3A)

● ● from Edward R. Barnsley; Beach Haven, New Jersey

The July 1977 issue (CNL #49, p.589) illustrated a London newspaper account of the probable importation into the port of Philadelphia in 1682 of 300 pounds of Halfpence and Farthings. This was a year after Mark Newby, an Irish tallow chandler, had arrived from Dublin with his family and a large supply of coppers known as St. Patrick Halfpence. As recounted by S.S.Crosby, (p.135), these pieces were made current in New Jersey by an Act of Assembly approved May 8, 1682.

Whether such legislative approval inspired English Quakers to import other coppers is, of course, only conjecture. It is known, however, that the ship which brought over the 40 English Quakers and some discontented Presbyterians was a 300 ton vessel called the "Unicorn". The London Gazette, under a Bristol dateline of June 17, 1682, announced that "The Unicorn" was then ready on that date to take on goods and passengers for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. But it was not until December that "The Unicorn" arrived in Philadelphia after many delays in departure.

(Marion Balderston: William Penn's Twenty-three Ships in Publications of the Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, No.1, Baltimore, Md., 1970. p.62.)

Due to the rapid growth of commerce in Philadelphia immediately after its settlement, a flow of hard money out of the Province soon depleted the available supply which the first settlers had brought with them, and in the following year counterfeiting was resorted to. The first recorded trial of counterfeiters was held before Governor William Penn and his Council in October, 1683 when two men were accused of coining Spanish Bitts and New England Shillings. (Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, in Colonial Records, Philadelphia, 1852, Vol. I, p. 84-89.)

The defendants were found guilty as charged, and were ordered to make restitution "in good and current pay" as well as contribute 50 Pounds toward the construction of a Public Court House.

## COMMENT on FIRST PAPER MONEY ISSUED IN OHIO.

(G-4A)

● ● from Walter Breen; Berkeley, California

J.N.Spiro's account in G-4 (CNL #49, p. 603) should be contrasted with that in Newman, EARLY PAPER MONEY OF AMERICA (p.281), which illustrates the 12¢ note. We have better evidence for accusing Col. William Duer of crime than the vague reference in either of these sources; wasn't it the same Duer who received a bribe from James Jarvis in the amount of \$10,000 and in turn made certain that Jarvis got the coinage contract to make FUGIOS instead of Gen.Matthias Ogden, his chief competitor?

## WHAT WERE the COPPERS Brought Over By the Quakers in 1682?

(G-3B)

from Walter Breen; Berkeley, California

In G-3 (CNL #49, p.589) mention is made of "300 pounds-worth of Half-pence, and Farthings which in that Colony go currant for twice their value ...". There is no reason to believe that these were specially made for colonial use; not much reason to assume that they were additional casks of St. Patrick coins. The most probable situation was purchase by the Quakers of any coppers they could obtain for under face value, i.e. anything no longer current at the time. We can probably rule out the tiny farthing tokens of James I and Charles I as these had long since been declared noncurrent in Massachusetts as of 1635; it is dubious that they would have remained acceptable at all, let alone at double face, at weight standards as low as 8 or 9 grains apiece! We can probably rule out both the 1672-1675 Charles II halfpence and farthings; though coinage had been stopped in 1676 by Order in Council, the coins would still have been technically current, and in fact many farthings were made again in 1679. The tin farthings had not yet been struck, as their mintage was begun by Order in Council as of 28 May 1684.

What is left? (1) Miscellaneous privately made copper, brass, tin and lead farthing tokens. Do any of these occur in noncollector accumulations datable to the period, or have any been found in excavations? (2) London Elephant halfpence, probably made around 1666. As these come in at least two different weight standards (30 and 60 to the pound), quite possibly the thin ones would have been sold cheaply while the heavy ones were hoarded. (3) "Kilkenny" halfpence and farthings of 1642. (4) "Armstrong" farthings of 1660-1661. Have any of these shown up in excavations or noncollector accumulations? --- ? ---

## WHAT HAPPENED TO LORD BALTIMORE?

(RF-61)

His dates of birth and death are given as 1609 & 1675. We know that as of October 4, 1659 a warrant for his arrest was ordered because Richard Pight, Clerk of Irons in the Tower Mint, had informed on him for ordering a large quantity of silver coins to be made with his own (Baltimore's) portrait and inscriptions, for circulation in Maryland. The next day Baltimore was summoned to attend Council and give evidence -- a euphemism for what would then have amounted to Star Chamber proceedings. As there was no denying Baltimore's guilt, and no denying that coinage of precious metals was a royal prerogative, even though Richard Cromwell was only Lord Protector for the titular King Charles II, clearly Lord Baltimore could have been flung into prison or even executed. Yet apparently he was not executed; but what did happen to him? Is there a biography available which goes into his last 16 years of life in any detail?

## CONNECTICUTS in GUINNESS' BOOK OF RECORDS -?-

(TN-70A)

● ● from Edward R. Barnsley; Beach Haven, New Jersey

Bob Lindesmith is always coming up with some interesting angle on Connecticut Coppers. This time his observations on thick planchets (CNL #49, p.590) certainly warrant a serious study, for a listing of these deviates may develop some sort of "common characteristic" which will show up when identified on ye Editor's Die Analysis Chart.

When I read Bob's comments in the last issue of CNL about the World's Heaviest Connecticut, I wondered if we should start a Can You Beat This One game, similar to the game of Old Cent Whist so graphically described by Sheldon in "Penny Whimsey," p.336. Anyway, Bob did arouse my curiosity to dust off my scales, and see if I had a piece heavier than Crosby's. I weighed my best one in the balance, but found it wanting.

Crosby said, p.217, that his Mailed Bust No. 9 weighed 184 Troy grains. Of the seven varieties which fall into Crosby's category No. 9, the only one known to come in extra thick planchets is 9-E. My piece weighs 183.5 gr., which almost but not quite equals Crosby's. Close but no cigar! But at least it beats out the Chesapeake Bay piece of 182 gr.

Therefore, Crosby's record in "Guinness" remains undefeated. Incidentally, the lightest 9-E I have weighs in at only 113.5 gr. or 70 gr. less than my heaviest. Both pieces are in approximately the same condition.

37.5-e of 1787 is indeed another variety which comes in extra thick planchets, as well as those of normal thickness. I weighed one of each category, and was surprised to find that the thickest one was 168.0 gr. (Lindesmith's 37.5-e weighed significantly more, 179 gr.). My thinnest one was 119.5 gr. but Lindesmith's was only 117 gr. Both of my coins were of approximately equal condition.

While on the subject of numismatic metrology, perhaps some work should be done on recording the diameter of Connecticuts as well as their thickness, even although this series was never struck with collars on the dies to restrain metal flow. To illustrate how great such expansion can become, I measured my ellipsoidal 4.1-B.1 of 1788 struck over a Nova 4-D.

I found that its long axis is  $1 \frac{11}{64}$  inch compared to the  $\frac{60}{64}$  inch diameter of a normally struck Nova 4-D. This "squashing out" of  $\frac{15}{64}$  inch suggests to me that the second coining operation was done with a hot planchet. What do you think? Of course, some Connecticuts come on larger-than-normal planchets anyway. For example, I find that these three varieties all measure uniformly  $1 \frac{3}{64}$  inch: 5.10-L of 1786, 6.1-M of 1787, and 33.10-W.6 of 1787. I would say that the average diameter of a single struck Connecticut Copper is 1 inch, but several hundred pieces should be measured in order to get an accurate norm.

## WEIGHTS of SOMMER ISLANDS Coins.

(TN-72)

● ● from Walter Breen; Berkeley, California

Recent study of the SOMMER ISLANDS coins shows that in each denomination one obverse and two reverse dies were used, except the Threepence of which only one reverse is known. Obverses read SOMMER \* ILANDS \* on the two largest; and all four have some kind of secret marking as follows:

XII: Pellet between front and rear legs

VI: Diamond-shaped group of four pellets between front and rear legs

III: Quincunx (4 pellets in square, one centrally within) before forefeet

II: Star between front and rear legs

The Threepence and Twopence have S I flanking ship; the two Twopence varieties differ mostly in having second I of II above or below first.

Enough similarities of fabric and die work exist among them to convince me that a single maker was responsible for all, but there is no consistent weight standard among the denominations, as the following tabulation shows:

XII: 77.5 -- 107 grains = 5.02 -- 6.96 grams

VI: 33.6 -- 46.9 " = 2.18 -- 3.04 "

III: 21.6 " = 1.40 " (British Museum)

II: 16 -- 21.2 " = 1.04 -- 1.372 " (heaviest at ANS)

If any CNL Patrons can supply additional weights outside the recorded ranges, especially of the Threepence, this will be appreciated; as will photographs of the Twopence, both varieties, which are needed.

## MORE on BULLET HOLES

(TN-67A)

● ● from Edward R. Barnsley; Beach Haven, New Jersey

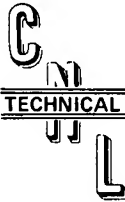
David Gladfelter's item on the Continental Dollar with bullet hole (CNL #49, p.590) causes one to wonder whether many of the pieces mutilated with what catalogers call "attempted punctures" may actually have been "target pieces" stuck in a fence rail or thrown in the air Annie Oakley style. I have some of these which look like a ball bearing had been pressed into the coin!

## Another POSTSCRIPT to "Speculations on the New England Stiver"

(TN-54B)

● ● from Walter Breen; Berkeley, California

There is no connexion between the GOD PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA pieces and the 1665 XII Pence fabrication, whatever may be the origin of the latter or the ISVC farthing (called "Stiver"). The GOD PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA die was made in England about 1963 by order of Robert Bashlow for muling with a genuine dime die (the 1814-20 STATESOFAMERICA die, which had been found in a lot of junk). Bashlow struck some 536 impressions of this same dime die, some uniface, some with the GOD PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA reverse, as Doug Winter has told us.



A Reprint of a Classic from the

TECHNICAL REPOSITORY

● ● CONNECTICUT COPPERS MINTS --

(RF-31A)

The WATER STREET MINT in New Haven ● by Norman Bryant ●

In the March 1970 issue (CNL #29, p.298) we asked about various reported mint sites for the Connecticut Coppers and what verification existed. Only scattered response has been received to this question over the years, all of it with reference to the "Water Street" mint. None of it provided any new information.

Almost all of our correspondents referred to the research of the late Norman Bryant which had been published in the April 1946 issue of Numismatic Review. Mr. Bryant was a Patron of CNL in the early days of our publication.

In view of renewed interest in "Connecticut Mints" generated by Walter Breen in recent articles -- most notably his "Legal and Illegal Connecticut Mints, 1785-1789" which appeared as Chapter 9 in Studies on Money in Early America published last year by The American Numismatic Society, we thought it would be worthwhile to reprint Bryant's very difficult to obtain article from Numismatic Review in association with RF-31, and to ask once again the original RF-31 query:

- ● Where were the mint sites for the Connecticut Coppers? Various writers have suggested:

New Haven, Connecticut -- on Water Street  
Morris Cove, near New Haven, Connecticut  
West Haven, or Westville, near New Haven  
The Broome & Platt Store in New Haven  
Machin's Mills near Newburgh, New York

What verification is there that these are true sites, or that they are fictitious sites, or simply numismatic tradition? Can someone resolve the confusion on this question?

JCS



## THE NEW HAVEN MINT

By NORMAN BRYANT

There have been several different writers that have described the founding of the "Company for Coining Coppers" that minted the majority of the Connecticut Cents and some of the Fugio Cents. They have also described the interest that various men had in the Company and some have gone into excellent classifications of the Connecticut Cents as to die variety.

In Mr. Edward E. Atwater's "History of The City of New Haven to The Present Time" published in 1887, we find the best statement as to where the mint building stood. However, we can learn more about the location of the mint and the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in. It is particularly interesting to collectors of colonial coins.

Therefore, I hope this article will give new information to those that are interested in historical facts as well as not repeating those things we already know. Unfortunately, there is not very much data available as to the mint building itself or to the actual workings of the mint. However, there is interesting information about the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in.

I had the pleasure and good fortune of meeting a local New Haven historian, an elderly gentleman by the name of Mr. Arnold G. Dana, who has done a splendid and accurate tracing of various industries in New Haven. Mr. Dana, on learning what my interest was, began to give me leads to what I had been hunting for. He showed me a photograph of an early map owned by the New Haven Colony Historical Society and showed me a picture of the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in. Fortunately for me he gave me copies of the pictures he owned.

This map is designated "Plan of the House and Land Adjoining it Belonging to Daniel Greene, New Haven, 1815." At the bottom of the map there is different handwriting which says "House bought by Capt. Greene in 1795."

If one will look at the map (Plate IX), one will see under "References" that the various houses on his property are designated by letters. One will find that "A" stands for "House" which was Capt. Daniel Greene's home and that "B" stands for "Copper Store" and "D" for "Counting House."

"Copper Store" either was the name given to the mint building or was a name given to it after Capt. Daniel Greene had acquired the property. "Counting House" obviously meant accounting house, where the business was transacted.

The original map is well worth while to describe for it is, I believe, the best indication as to the location of the mint building itself as well as the superintendent's house. Mr. Arnold Dana describes this document, which is understood to have been written by George Dudley Seymour, as follows: "This map, in India ink and water color, is on a fine quality of paper mounted upon linen, tacked at the ends to small wooden rods having flattened surfaces for the attachment of the ends of the map, and provided with delicately-turned knobs or balls at either end. The map measures 12 x 26 inches. The upper rod measures 15½ and the lower 15¾ inches, both measurements being to the tips of the balls."

"The edges of the map are bound with faded, green silk. The drawing is beautifully done in considerable detail, even to the brick or stone-work leading from the terrace of the house to the street and forming the seawall in front of the house. Along the right-hand side of the map Townsend Street is written in pencil, and does not, therefore, appear so clearly on the photograph. The coloring of the drawing, in different shades of green, blue, pink and pale salmon, is attractive. The penwork, within the two circles containing the title and references, is very handsomely executed."

The "House" (Plate X) that Captain Daniel Greene lived in was built by Ralph Isaacs in 1771. In 1784, Mr. Isaacs sold his property to Samuel Broome, a wealthy New York merchant, who in turn sold it about 1795 to Captain Daniel Greene, of lavish hospitality. Captain Daniel Greene, according to Mr. Dana, had "a far wetter view of hospitality than had ever been entertained in the port of New Haven prior to his making it. His parties in his fine romantic house (built in 1771 by Ralph Isaacs, a converted Jew and Tory) were long remembered." Captain Daniel Greene was lost at sea. The property was presently acquired by Ebenezer Townsend, a distinguished shipping merchant who died here in 1821 at the age of 82. The property was sub-

sequently acquired by James Brewster in connection with his purchase of 20 acres or more at and near the foot of Wooster Street. It appears to have been known at that time as the "Platt House." (Note: Why it was called the "Platt House" at that time I do not know, unless there was a connection with Jeremiah Platt, who was a member of the firm of Broome & Platt, who it is believed had a sub-contract for the minting of the coins and who I believe also had a home on this large piece of property.) Mr. Brewster sold the property to Harvey Hoadley, whose family occupied it from 1847 till 1877 or later. The house was demolished in 1880.

From this we can learn that Samuel Broome owned this property at a time when the mint was in operation. Mr. Broome was also the superintendent of the mint. "Copper Store" on the map takes on a lot more meaning now. His house adjoined the "Copper Store" at the Northwest corner. It would seem logical that a superintendent would live next to his place of business and particularly when the business was the minting of coins.

With all this information, my wife and myself went down to Water Street to see where these buildings actually stood. So on August 7, 1941, we started by taking measurements starting from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets on the northwest corner. Our measurements did not include the sidewalks as there were no sidewalks there in those days.

Water Street was then known as East Water Street. Hamilton Street was known as Townsend Street. Franklin Street still keeps the same name.

At the present time the Old Sailor's Home and the Connecticut Importing Company (Botwinick's factory formerly) are located on the sites of the superintendent's home (Samuel Broome's house) and the mint and the superintendent's house on the latter.

The mint stood 290 feet from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets in a westerly direction. This was the furthest corner of the mint building. The easterly corner of the building is 235 feet from the same corner. Thus the building was 55 feet long. Now to compare this with present buildings and land, the mint building's western boundary is in the parking lot for automobiles to the west of the Connecticut Importing Company building. The end of the building stood about in the center of this lot. The building was 20 feet wide and hence this mint building went back partly into the parking space and partly where the Connecticut Importing Company building is today. The southern front of the building is partly in the parking space and the end of the building easterly is to the right of the front steps to this Connecticut Importing Company building and slightly to the right half of the first ground floor window.

The Samuel Broome house stood next to the mint and joined it at the northeast corner. This house stood 20 feet back from the road, Water Street. This house had a western boundary of 235 feet from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets and its eastern boundary was 175 feet from this same corner. The building was therefore 60 feet long. So the superintendent's house stood as follows: western boundary was from right of front steps of the present Connecticut Importing Company building and slightly to the right half of the first ground floor window to eastern boundary which is to the left of the front steps of the present Old Sailors Home and slightly to the right of a screen below the porch of the Old Sailors Home and slightly to the right of the center of the bar of the screen.

From the western corner of the Connecticut Importing Company building to half way west in the parking lot along the edge of the sidewalk can be seen the reddish brown foundation stones where a building once was. The measurements are almost exact to the end of this foundation wall of the old mint building. It would be extremely interesting to know if the old mint building had a cellar. If it had, it might be interesting to excavate to see if any of the tools or coins were buried there.

Fortunately not all has been lost by time, for the safe that belonged to Messrs. Broome & Platt is still in existence today. The John E. Bassett Co., hardware store, owns this old safe which is in their store. At the time of their one hundredth anniversary they published a booklet telling among other things of this old safe. See Plate XI. The title of the article regarding this is "Some Ancient Thynges" in "Our Poffeffion"—"An Old Safe." (In quoting, we substitute the lower case "f" where the original used old fashioned "long s."—Ed.)

"Perched on top of the bigger and more pretentious fafe which contributes to the fecurity of our store to-day, ftands a modeft looking "ftrong box," fuffegftive of remote antiquity."

"The "jimmy" of the laft century muft have been a fadly unimproved tool, or it may be that the fimple folk of that time had too little leifure to cultivate its ufe as a fcience, fince the confruction of this fafe indicates the moft perfect faith in the honefty of fociety generally."

"It has a history too, not uninteresting: we suspect its maker lived in England, though we can trace it no farther back than as being the property of Messrs. Broome & Platt, who one hundred years ago manufactured in this city under government contract what were known as "Ring Coppers." These were the size of the copper cent, now a rarity in circulation, and bore upon the reverse, an hour glass, the date, and the fententious advice "Mind your business;" upon the obverse, thirteen rings around the margin, and in the centre, the legend "We are one." When, at the conclusion of this firm's business, there followed a sale of their effects, it was bought by the founder of our store, Mr. Titus Street, and has up to the present escaped the unfentimental atmosphere of the junk shop."

"A big wrought handle serves to pull its door, and on looking further one finds an oval escutcheon which yields to the touch of a spring and being pushed back discloses a keyhole which as compared with the modern "is not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door." A key (Plate XI) ponderous in proportion, throws back four creaking bolts and we look in upon an interior (Plate XI) which contains no treasure now, except the faint odor of ancient books and papers, and the memory of the generations of men, who came on earth and spent a little while in its quiet companionship then crumbled into dust."

"This safe was the only one in the service of the store until the death of Mr. E.B.M. Hughes in 1864."

"It will give us pleasure to show this relic of the past."

This old safe was undoubtedly kept in the "Counting House" where the accounting was done, for this store speaks of books and papers that were kept in it. However, it may have been in the mint building itself or "Copper Store."

I had the good fortune of being able to purchase a picture of the "House" (the same that Mr. Arnold Dana gave me) but this one hung in the house. Along with this picture, which is framed, was a newspaper article about this interesting house. The owner of the picture and article was a Mr. James Guernsey, whose mother, before her marriage, was a Hoadley, lived in this house on Water Street. It was from Mr. Guernsey that these facts were learned.

The article which follows is copied from a copy of *The New Haven Sunday Register*—July 17, 1881.

#### "THE SMUGGLER'S RETREAT"

##### "FOUND IN A WATER STREET HOUSE"

*"A Residence Which Abounds in History and Traditions in which Romance, Possible Crime, Hidden Treasures, Ghosts and Revolutionary Generals Play an Important Part—A Portrait Said to be Painted by Titian."*

"There is or was a smuggler's cellar on Water Street, Captain Storer or any one else to the contrary notwithstanding," said a gentleman as he finished reading the article in last Sunday's Register, "and you can find it in the Hoadley homestead on Water Street just west of Sargent's big collection of factories. It is number 65 I believe, and can easily be found because it is the oldest looking house on the street, and stands in a yard in which there is a profusion of elm and horse-chestnut trees."

"The directions were scarcely needed for the house is well known to every one who has strolled through Water Street, and who has not—to enjoy the refreshing breezes—though they are not always particularly fragrant—which sweep up from the sound. Water Street, were it not for the huge factories, mills, and other hives of industry lining the water side of the street, would be one of the most delightful spots in the country. Raze the factories and buildings which obstruct the view and keep the breezes, in a measure, from coming to the residences on the north side of the street; dig out the mud which has accumulated and substitute a sandy bottom and both the west and east shore would sink into insignificance as summer resorts. Not that the Register would have this done. Rather by far would it have the east and west shores built up with factories and the similar incentives to growth and prosperity, and the beautiful shores wiped out of existence as pleasure resorts, than see any one of the factories or evidences of life and industry in the locality alluded to disappear. There are plenty of shore resorts near enough to take their places. There can never be too many manufactories in and about New Haven, as monuments of the material wealth and business prosperity of the city, to satisfy the Register. But walking along this once romantic Water Street, rich with historical reminiscences and legendary lore, one cannot help but think what wonderful natural advantages the spot had for a watering place, and how materially they might have been improved by the expenditure of capital under the direction of some skilled landscape gardener, some Ik Marvel of the past."

"One hundred and sixty-four years ago, or in 1717, there was a deed recorded as Mrs. Guernsey who lives in the house informed our representative, in which the present timeworn and rather dilapidated looking structure was referred to as Ralph Isaacs' new house, and in the same record is mention made of his store on the little wharf jutting out into the harbor from in front of the old residence. A fence erected many years ago separates it from the road, and the old, fancifully carved gates which were formerly the entrance to the wharf have probably not been swung open in many years. On the wharf the grass is growing and decay and disuse are noticeable everywhere. It is a sorry sight for the location is one that seems to offer every advantage for commercial purposes which capital and enterprise are alone required to develop. It was on this wharf that tradition has it the smugglers landed the goods they were endeavoring to put on the market without going through the, what they deemed unnecessary process, of paying duties."

"The house, aside from its age, and the series of traditions connected with it, is a veritable curiosity, and whether it was built by Ralph Isaacs for a dwelling place, or by a band of smugglers for illegitimate purposes, it was built in the most substantial manner possible, and carpenters of the later days who have been called upon to make alterations on the interior say it is most solidly constructed building they have ever seen. The floors are of bay-wood, and nearly all the other wood work is cherry, grown almost as hard as iron during the nearly two centuries in which it has stood as a part of the house. The timbers used are massive, and the rafters great beams. As Mrs. Guernsey, who conducted the visitor through the house, from the famous cellar to the spacious garret, remarked: "Whoever built this house must have been an oddity, for there are no two rooms in the house alike, no two windows of the same height and width, the plates of diamond-shaped glass used different in different windows, and the window sills of different widths, some quite wide and others very narrow—a mere strip of wood."

"And it is singularly constructed house, with wide halls on both stories, wider than a majority of rooms in the houses constructed to-day, high ceilings, massive woodwork, and rooms large enough for an ordinary society hall. These have been altered somewhat, especially by its two latest owners, Hon. James Brewster and the late Hervey S. Hoadley, both of whom previously owned the property where Sargent's factories, the old Pavilion, and the Boston Buckboard factories now stand, as well as other property in the vicinity. In the great west parlor of the first story stands a book-case which, when the house was originally constructed, was a parlor pipe organ of English make, and upon which perhaps the smugglers played to while away the hours on shore after their dangerous vocation had been safely ended. Perhaps it may have responded to the touches of the fairy fingers of the ladies of Ralph Isaac's household, and made sweet music for the entertainment of more law-abiding visitors than smugglers. What a story the old pipes now stowed in the garret could tell were they possessed of the power of speech. Speculation might weave romances weird, and charming stories, melo-dramatic or tragic in their character. They are for the romancist or essayist of the Edgar A. Poe stripe, however, rather than for the humdrum pen of the newspaper scribe, and he leaves for the dreamer the pleasant duty of making for himself the story of the organ pipes. Perhaps the reader may be assisted, he, in his melancholy dreaming, as he sits and watches the smoke-wreaths from his cigarette or cigar, and she, in her romanticisms, as she sits lazily fanning herself, if the writer adds incidentally the current legend of a half century or more ago, now rapidly fading away. It is, as one will naturally suppose, that the house is or was haunted by the spirit of a fair woman who had a century or more ago died in one of the large chambers in the second story, some say, by a murderer's hand; others that she pined away, the victim of unrequited love."

"Whatever the facts relative to the legend, it is certain that Mrs. Hoadley and her daughter, Mrs. Guernsey, well remember the stories about the house being haunted, and how women and girls used to with fear and trembling steal up to the house, press their faces against the panes, and then, hurry away with screams as they heard, or imagined they heard, the wail of the unfortunate spirit and saw her moving through the spacious halls and up the elaborately carved staircase of solid mahogany brought from England for use in building the house."

"In the east parlor hangs a portrait in oil, cracked, dingy, and faded, which bears on its back the figures of the year in which it is supposed to have been painted—1570. It is said by some to be the portrait of an Italian princess painted by Titian. By others it is claimed to be the portrait of the woman of more than a century ago whose spirit roamed about the house. Whoever it is a portrait of, the original, if there was one, was a handsome woman and a fit subject even for the brush of Titian. If it is one of his, and connoisseurs who have examined it are not prepared to say that it is not, it is of almost priceless value, for it must have been painted by him six years before his death, and when in his 93rd year. His last work was painted when he was in

his ninety-ninth year and of it the best critics have said the execution gave marked evidences of that perfection in coloring, thought and detail which marked the works of his less mature years and when he was in the full vigor of manhood."

"But it is with the cellar that the more practical of our readers will be interested, for the cellar is the one formerly used and probably occupied by smugglers. At present a boarded floor is laid to better accommodate the present dwellers in the house. Underneath this floor and the dirt which has collected in the nearly two centuries since it was laid is a flooring of cement. The side walls are of heavy rock, securely cemented together, and of considerable thickness. The beams on which it is laid, and the other timbers used did service centuries ago as spars or masts in some sturdy vessels. Solid and firm as ever they are to-day and would stand if they were permitted for probably another century to come. At the east end of the cellar are two large vaults, possibly vaults used for the storage of wines, liquors, and other goods. In the mind of the romancer they are vaults wherein were hidden until they could be removed to a more secure place the treasures which the smugglers, while acting as pirates or privateersmen, had obtained."

"It is the south wall of the cellar which interests one the most deeply however for its massive wall in which is cut a huge gateway certainly tends to bear out the assertion that it was once a smuggler's cellar. Two very heavy wooden doors hang now as they did when the wall was first erected, the inside guardians of the entrance. The outer gateway of iron was removed many years ago, and where it once hung is now a heavy wall of stone which effectually bars up the entrance to the gateway. This was filled when the street was raised many years ago by Mr. Hoadley. Tradition has it that through this subterranean passage way the smugglers carted their goods from the wharf opposite into the cellar where they were secreted until they were disposed of to their confederates."

"The romance of the cellar is gone when one looks about him and sees the commonplace things that to-day are ordinarily assigned to a cellar scattered about him, but a glance at the holes underneath the planks and through the cement floor deep down into the earth recall to mind the searchers for the hidden treasures, which it has been currently reported through nearly half a dozen generations, are hidden somewhere about the house or grounds."

"The house stands on a knoll a number of feet above the yard on the west and in this knoll, it is stated, is hidden a huge vault in which untold treasures, plate, etc., are hidden waiting only the enterprise of some one to be exhibited to the world. Hervey S. Hoadley and a hired man once dug into the embankment down a depth of some 12 or 15 feet, but failed to find the vault of tradition, and old wise heads who have heard the stories relative to the spot shake their heads and say, discovery would have been certain had the digging been carried on further north, at the north-western corner of the house, where the vault certainly lies."

"In the yard is a double horse-chestnut tree which always attracts attention in the spring, and connected with it is a curious fact. One half of the tree blossoms one year and the other half the next, and this alternation of blossoms continues yearly, save once in seven years, when the entire tree becomes a mass of handsome flowers. This peculiarity is inexplicable, even by the theory that the tree is two trees in one, for this would not explain the blossoming on all the branches once in seven years."

"The old house has quite a history, for in addition to having been the headquarters of smugglers, Generals Washington and Gates visited here, and the then owner, a Mr. Broome, who was blessed with twins named them respectively George Washington Broome and Horatio Gates Broome. The house at one time was a hotel, was the residence of the Hon. James Brewster and was also used by General Russell as his residence and military school."

"At one time there was in front of the yard and house a high stone wall, which reached to a level with the piazza now standing, and which prevented the passers-by on the street or in-comers by water from seeing what was progressing inside the yard and house. This would effectually have hidden smugglers from view, had this been the purpose of the wall, but it is more probable, as Mrs. Guernsey says, that the wall was built to protect the house and grounds from the high seas that might roll in unusual high tides or storms. Still the tradition about the smugglers is the more interesting, and so perhaps it had better stand."

This unusual story of the old house is most interesting even though the author rather romanced about this home. If the old mint were described in like manner, we would be blessed with some fine data regarding it. However, it is interesting to note that in the picture (Plate X) that there

does not seem to be any sign of a building attached to this house at the left corner of the house. The old mint building was evidently not standing at this time. Also, it is of interest that Mrs. Guernsey does not speak of this building, where the actual coins were minted. Therefore, it is a guess as to what happend to the old mint building.

There are letters which Yale University has inherited from the present Mrs. James Hillhouse that were written by the Honorable James Hillhouse who was one of the founders of the mint. Unfortunately, these letters miss the very period when the mint was in operation. These letters were from the Honorable James Hillhouse to his wife. He was in Washington and his wife in New Haven. There is no mention of the mint in his letters.

There are also letters that have come into the possession of the Connecticut State Library in Hartford written by James Jarvis, the man who was granted permission by the government to mint the first legally authorized money (the Fugio Cent), and which I understand do not state anything about the old mint. I have not had the pleasure of examining these letters.

If any collector has additional information regarding the mint or its operations or the men who had anything to do with it, I certainly would appreciate hearing from them.

This article could not have been printed if it were not for the courtesy of Mr. Arnold G. Dana, the New Haven *Sunday Register*, the John E. Bassett Co., and for those publications that we already know about. My sincere thanks to all of these people or organizations for their help.

The main sources of my information are the following:

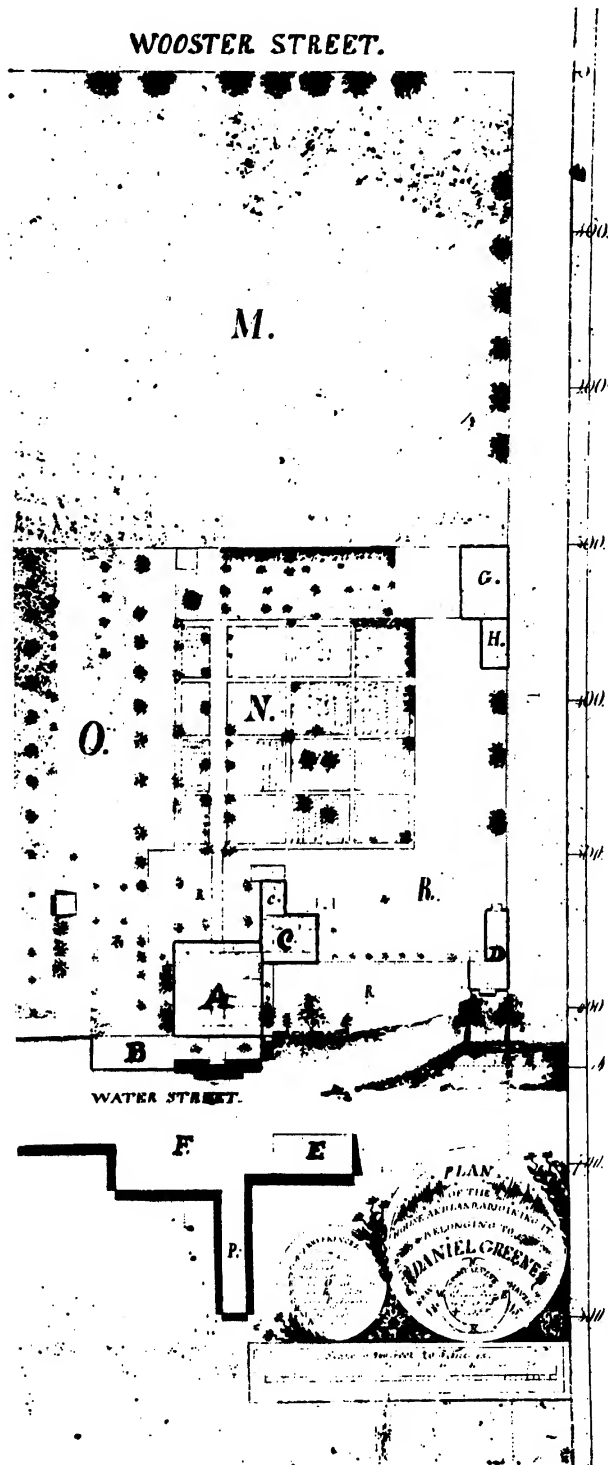
- 1. Mr. Arnold G. Dana, New Haven, Conn.
- 2. The New Haven *Sunday Register*.
- 3. The New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- 4. John E. Bassett Co., New Haven, Conn.
- 5. Mr. Edward E. Atwater's "History of the City of New Haven."
- 6. Henry T. Blake in his "Chronicles of the New Haven Green."
- 7. Sylvester S. Crosby in his book "The Early Coins of America."
- 8. Dr. Henry Bronson's article "A Historical Account of Connecticut Currency, Continental Money, and the Finances of the Revolution" in Volume No. 1 of Papers of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.



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Plate IX -- "Plan of the House & Land Adjoining it Belonging to Daniel Greene, New Haven, 1815"



Plate X -- The "House" - Owned by Samuel Broome from 1784 to 1795.

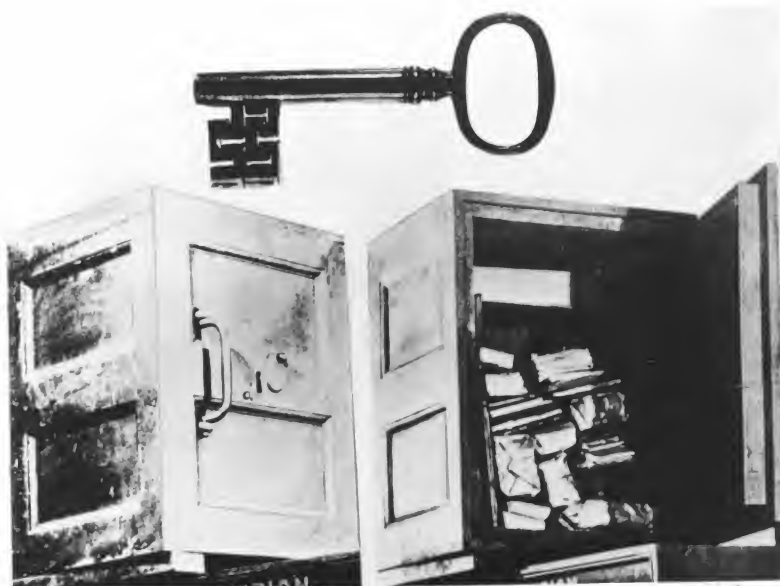


Plate XI -- The Broome & Platt Safe.